



# Hazardous Waste Education Fee - 2006

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## Important!

Check out Ecology's Web site at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/edfees/index.html>. The site contains a list of commonly asked questions and answers about the fee and other helpful information. Submit your request for a fee waiver online. This may save you a call.

The Hazardous Waste Education Fee funds programs that help businesses learn about the benefits of reducing hazardous waste and complying with state and federal hazardous waste regulations.

State law (Chapter 173-305 WAC, Hazardous Waste Fee Regulation) requires you to pay a fee each year to help businesses - particularly small ones - find ways to prevent environmental pollution. The current \$46 fee, as established in Chapter 173-305-110 WAC and RCW 70.95E.040 provides funds for waste reduction activities like conducting workshops, providing phone and on-site consultation services, and developing literature on pollution prevention.

## Who pays the fee?

The Hazardous Waste Education Fee applies to businesses that generated any quantity of hazardous waste during **2005**. You received a bill because your business met the basic criteria set by the law. The criteria are:

- Your business was assigned a NAICS code that is known to typically generate waste by the Department of Revenue, and;
- The value of your products, gross proceeds of sales or gross income exceeded \$12,000 in 2005, or;
- You have been identified as a known generator of hazardous waste because you currently have an active RCRA Site ID number for hazardous waste generation in Washington State.

## Important!

The Department of Revenue (DOR) has replaced the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system with a new 6-digit North American Industrial Classification (NAICS), which has been applied to all businesses in Washington. Because of this, you may be receiving the Education Fee billing for the first time. If you do not generate hazardous waste, you can request a waiver as per instructions on page 2 of this fact sheet. You may also review the Ecology Web site at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/edfees/index.html> for more information on waste generation questions and a contact number for the Department of Revenue if you feel your business has been mis-classified.

## What is "Hazardous Waste?"

Ecology considers wastes as hazardous when they have properties that endanger human health or the environment. A regulated waste can be on a federal or state list and exhibit federal or state classification criteria (see Chapter 173-303-081, sections 081, 082, 090, and 100 WAC). The following are examples of some of these waste streams, along with the characteristics that make them "hazardous":

### Waste Streams

battery acid, sodium hydroxide, drain cleaner

paint thinner, spent solvents, spilled fuel (gasoline, diesel)

explosives, cyanides, hypochlorides

used antifreeze, heavy metals, photo processing wastes, pesticides, herbicides

### Characteristic **Corrosivity**

### **Ignitability**

### **Reactivity**

### **Toxicity**

## How is hazardous waste generated?

Many businesses and industries create hazardous wastes as they provide a service or product to their customers. Some products you might use are hazardous from the start, while others pick up contaminants as you use them. It must be noted that many businesses manage their waste streams properly and are to be commended for this effort. However, proper management does not change the fact that the waste was generated. You are still subject to the fee because you generated waste.

The funds raised will provide opportunities for Ecology staff to assist you in further reducing your waste streams, or instruct others in proper waste reduction and management. This will promote our common goals of environmental protection.

A partial list naming some sources of hazardous wastes appears below:

- **Painting** - paints, solvents, paint/lacquer thinners, empty containers with hazardous waste residues, demolition debris, fungicides
- **Gas Stations/Pumps** - spilled/leaked gasoline and other fuels, oils/oil additives, oily rags
- **Cabinetry** - waste adhesives, paints, thinners, finishes

- **Parts Cleaning** - solvents, acids, caustics, shop rags
- **Machining** - solvents, coolants, cutting oil, shop rags
- **Equipment Fueling, Maintenance or Repair** - solvents, used oil, used antifreeze, paints, spilled or leaked gasoline and diesel fuel
- **Heavy Machinery Operation** - oils, coolants, solvents, shop rags
- **Printing** - inks, solvents, shop rags
- **Photo Processing** - silver, developer, fixer
- **Janitorial/Ground Maintenance** - cleaners, waxes, pesticides, paints, spent fluorescent tubes
- **Construction** - adhesives, paints, solvents, empty containers with residues of hazardous material
- **Pesticide Applications** - waste pesticides, containers
- **Warehouse Maintenance Activities** - out of date chemicals, residues, spills, spent fluorescent tubes

### When is the fee due?

Businesses must pay the fee by **July 15, 2006**. We have enclosed a return envelope with a pre-printed return address to help make payment easier.

#### Important!

Be sure to enclose the billing statement with your payment or we may be unable to credit your account!

### I know my business did not generate hazardous waste last year. Do I still have to pay the fee?

No. Only businesses that generate hazardous waste must pay this fee, but you must write to Ecology and request a review of your fee status.

### How do I request a waiver?

If you believe you did not generate hazardous waste in **2005**, check out Ecology's Education Fee Web site listed on the front page. Click on the e-mail waiver form, fill it out completely and send it back to us for evaluation. If you mail back a request in the return envelope, include:

- a signed letter describing all business activities for 2005;
- a call back telephone number, in case we have questions; and
- the billing coupon attached to the letter.

**Waiver requests must be mailed by July 15, 2006.**

### Do I need to call Ecology first?

No. If you know the fee does not apply to you, just submit your request for staff review. Ecology will review your request and contact you with any questions or concerns. **Please refer to the web site and review the list of commonly asked questions and answers to help you make your decision.** If, after reviewing the material, you are still not sure if you need to pay the fee, call the toll-free phone number listed in this fact sheet and on the Web site, or e-mail your questions, using the Web link for staff contacts. We will help you make the determination. Fee waivers will not be granted by phone, however, only by written letter or e-mail request.

### Who do I contact if I have questions?

Call the Department of Ecology at **866-211-2955**. *Make sure to have the billing coupon in front of you.* Please refer to your North American Industry Classification System code (NAICS) and your Department of Revenue Tax Identification Number.

The toll-free number places you into a voice answering system designed to connect you with a staff person who can answer your questions. Follow the instructions provided in the box below if you need to make the call.

### To Call the Hazardous Waste Education Fee Hotline:

1. Dial 866-211-2955.

2. Look at your billing coupon. Find the four-digit NAICS Code printed above your name and address. Look at the first digit of your NAICS Code number.

If the number begins with 2 or 3:

**PRESS 1**

If the number begins with 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9:

**PRESS 2**

3. You will be connected with an Ecology staff person if available. If staff is unavailable, your call will be directed to their voicemail. Please note that Ecology staff receive a large volume of calls during the billing period. Leaving a message on their voicemail is the quickest way to get a response. They will return your call as soon as possible.

When the staff person answers your call, they may ask you for your nine-digit DOR Tax Identification Number. That number is printed on the coupon above your name and address. The staff person will need this number to verify the status of your fee account.



## Department of Ecology

### Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program

# Free Help for Businesses

*Corry's Fine Dry Cleaning, on Mercer Island, is the first dry cleaner in Washington to provide carbon dioxide cleaning and the quality of the company's work has been recognized by a national trade association. While the change required investments in new equipment, the expense is quickly being recaptured through reduced air permit costs and avoiding the disposal of hazardous chemicals like perchloroethylene (perc), which is a known carcinogen and contributes to groundwater contamination. Additional benefits include an increased customer base and a healthier workplace for Corry's employees. The company also switched to energy efficient fluorescent bulbs and conserves natural gas by using the leftover steam from pressing machines to heat water used for the laundry.*

Many businesses are unaware that some of the materials they work with may contain hazardous substances that endanger human health and the environment. The Department of Ecology provides information to all businesses to promote pollution prevention and effective waste management.

Ecology maintains regional offices in Bellevue, Lacey, Spokane and Yakima. Toxics reduction professionals in each location provide technical assistance to all Washington businesses, industries and governmental agencies. These experts offer you **non-enforcement** assistance to help with your pollution prevention efforts. They can also explain the requirements of the *Dangerous Waste Regulations*. Many businesses have successfully reduced the amount of waste they generate by working closely with our staff.

### Hands-on Help to Business

Ecology staff can help you by providing:

#### ■ On-site assistance

Toxics reduction specialists are trained to help solve specific waste reduction and waste management issues. They can also help you understand Washington's dangerous waste rules.

#### ■ Phone Consultation

Over the phone, you can get general advice on pollution prevention methods and regulatory compliance.

*Meridian Collision Center of Puyallup is an auto-body repair and fire-apparatus-service center with a strong commitment to good environmental management. The company reduced paint use by 35 percent with a new paint system that mixes just enough paint for the job. Hazardous waste was cut to just 24 ounces of solvent each week. Meridian buys products from local suppliers recognized as good environmental performers. Power use dropped by 25 percent after the shop switched to a new, more efficient compressor and replaced old fluorescent lights with energy-efficient, low-mercury bulbs. It is important to Meridian's management that all employees adopt a positive environmental ethic, and that recycling and environmental-stewardship concepts are shared with customers.*

#### ■ Printed Information

The Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program publishes many documents that cover pollution prevention methods for your industry.

For example, 25,000 businesses receive the *Shoptalk* newsletter each quarter. This document covers the latest proven techniques for waste reduction. It also offers sound advice on how you can work within regulatory guidelines. To obtain a free copy, call (360) 407-7472.

A list of publication titles, including the series *Success Through Waste Reduction, Volumes I-I-IV*, can be found on our web site at [www.ecy.wa.gov](http://www.ecy.wa.gov). Call or e-mail Dave Zink ([dzin461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:dzin461@ecy.wa.gov)) at (360) 407-6752 to obtain a copy of these and other publications, or to subscribe to the *Shoptalk* newsletter.

#### ■ Outreach to Washington Businesses

We sponsor a variety of workshops and seminars to share information about the pollution prevention successes of others. Many of their techniques can work for you!

Last year, Ecology staff conducted 742 site visits, provided 6,046 phone consultations and sponsored 24 workshops attended by 1,074 participants.

## **The Benefits of Pollution Prevention**

Businesses that use any amount of hazardous materials find that reducing their use of these products benefits the company and also preserves the environment. Preventing pollution:

- Improves worker health and safety.
- Increases cost management and savings, particularly in the areas of waste disposal, business administration, regulatory compliance and potential liabilities.
- Improves process efficiency.
- Reduces regulatory requirements.

You can contact regional staff for information on the benefits of waste reduction at:

### **Western Washington**

#### **Northwest Regional Office - Bellevue**

Dennis Johnson, Unit Supervisor

Toxics Reduction Unit

**E-mail:** [djoh461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:djoh461@ecy.wa.gov)

Phone: (425) 649-7040

#### **Southwest Regional Office - Lacey**

Hugh O'Neill, Unit Supervisor

Toxics Reduction Unit

**E-mail:** [hone461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:hone461@ecy.wa.gov)

Phone: (360) 407-6354

### **Eastern Washington**

#### **Central Regional Office - Yakima**

Brian Dick, Section Supervisor

Toxics Reduction Unit

**E-mail:** [bdic461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:bdic461@ecy.wa.gov)

Phone: (509) 454-7859

#### **Eastern Regional Office - Spokane**

Lisa Brown, Section Supervisor

Toxics Reduction Unit

**E-mail:** [lbro@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:lbro@ecy.wa.gov)

Phone: (509) 329-3409

OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/index.html>